

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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General

1. After the land reform of 1944-1945, the State Farms (Panstwowe Gospodarstwa Rolne-PGR) were administered by the Central Administration of State Rural Real Estate. This central administration was later renamed the Central Administration of State Farms and subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture. Later on, in 1951, it was separated from the Ministry of Agriculture and reorganized under an independent ministry called the Ministry of State Farms (Ministerstwo Panstwowych Gospodarstw Rolnych). The new ministry controlled all estates and farms which had not been parceled out under the government agricultural policy and all new state farms created from land which lay fallow because of a shortage of farmers and agricultural workers.
2. In 1954, the Ministry of PGR administered about two million hectares of land, that is, about 15% of the land utilized for agriculture. About two-thirds of this land belonged to the State Farms in western Poland in the so-called "recovered territories." On the whole, there were about 6,000 State Farms in Poland organized into about 600 clusters (Zespol) which were the basic economic and administrative units. The total number of men and women employed with the State Farms fluctuated around 200,000.

The Ministry of State Farms and Subordinated Administrative Agencies (See page 8 for organizational chart).

3. The Ministry of State Farms was located in Warsaw at Wspolna Street and occupied five floors of the western part of the Ministry of Agriculture building.

SECRET

SECRET

-2-

50X1

Former minister Hilary Chelchowski, who was in charge of the Ministry of State Farms up to December 1954, was not regarded as a good agricultural economist and experienced administrator. In addition to the minister, there were the following five vice-ministers:

- a. Vice-Minister Stanislaw Tkaczow who was the strongest man in the Ministry and supervised the planning, organization and finance departments.
- b. Vice-Minister Mieczyslaw Bodalski who was in charge of the mechanization, supplies, and sales departments.
- c. Vice-Minister Marian Gotowlec, a former professor at the Central School of Rural Economy, who supervised the departments of agricultural and livestock production.
- d. Vice-Minister Zygmunt Berling who was in charge of cadres and administration.

50X1

[redacted] no further details on the organization and responsibilities of the individual departments. [redacted] the Ministry did not have a good reputation on the whole and that it did not properly control the subordinated administrative agencies and State Farms. [redacted] it was always very difficult to obtain reliable information from the Ministry and particularly the data necessary for the planning of supplies of agricultural machines and spare parts.

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4. The organization of the administrative agencies subordinated to the Ministry was changed several times. Up to 1953, there were 24 district administrations of State Farms (Zarząd Okręgowy PGR) subordinated directly to the Ministry and three independent central administrations. Each district administrative office controlled the clusters of State Farms in its area; the three independent central administrations supervised only special farms (gospodarstwa specjalistyczno-hodowlane) for fish breeding, horse breeding, and garden seeds.
5. In the beginning of 1954, the district administrations of the State Farms were liquidated and the following four new territorial central administrations of State Farms were created:
  - a. Central Administration of State Farms, Silesia (Centralny Zarząd PGR, Śląsk), which controlled the clusters of State Farms in the voivodships of Opole, Wrocław, and Stalinogrod.
  - b. Central Administration of State Farms, Greater Poland (Centralny Zarząd PGR, Wielkopolska), which controlled the State Farm clusters in the voivodships of Poznań, Zielona Góra, and probably part of Bydgoszcz.
  - c. Central Administration of State Farms, Pomerania (Centralny Zarząd PGR, Pomorze), which controlled the State Farm clusters in the voivodships of Gdańsk, Koszalin, Szczecin, and probably part of Bydgoszcz and Olsztyn.
  - d. Central Administration of State Farms, Warsaw (Centralny Zarząd PGR, Warszawa), which controlled the State Farm clusters in central Poland and in the remaining voivodships.

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

50X1

All the above mentioned central administrations were located in Warsaw and worked practically as additional departments of the Ministry of State Farms.

5. From 60 to 80 unions of State Farms (Zjednoczenie PGR) were subordinated to the above-mentioned central administrations of State Farms. Each union controlled several clusters of State Farms (Zespól PGR); sometimes the clusters under one union were located in several counties. 50X1  
50X1 the special horse breeding and seed producing farms were also subordinated to the unions.
6. The PGRs had their own repair establishments which were supervised by the department of mechanization of the Ministry. There were three categories of repair establishments:
  - a. The National Detached Repair Establishments of PGR (Ogólnokrajowe Zakłady Remontowe Wydzielone PGR) which were subordinate to the central administrations of the State Farms and specialized in repairing heavy agricultural machines, such as steam traction engines, threshing machines, trucks, and trailers. 50X1  
 one establishment of this kind from the outside only in Kozuchów (N 51-45, E 15-36) near Zielona Góra. It repaired trucks and trailers and employed about 100 workers.
  - b. The Detached Repair Workshops (Wydzielone Warsztaty Remontowe) which were subordinate to the unions of State Farms. They were smaller than the National Detached Repair Establishments and carried out all sorts of repairs, including capital repairs on tractors and agricultural machines. There were at least one or two such repair workshops for each union.
  - c. The workshops (warsztaty) belonging to the State Farm clusters which carried out medium and current repairs on tractors and agricultural machines for the State Farms administered by their clusters. There was one workshop for each cluster.

#### State Farm Cluster

7. The State Farm cluster (Zespól PGR) was a basic organizational and economic unit which administered several (sometimes up to 20) State Farms. (See page 9 for organizational chart). There was a director in charge of each cluster who was responsible for administration and the implementation of plans at all the PGRs in his cluster. He performed his duties with the help of the following staff which consisted of 18 to 20 employees:
  - a. A Planning Officer (Referent Planowania) who worked out the plans for each individual State Farm and a comprehensive one for the cluster. He kept records and submitted periodic reports on the implementation of plans.
  - b. A Chief Bookkeeper (Główny Księgowy) who was responsible for financial matters, accounting, and bookkeeping. He made up periodic balance sheets and supervised the bookkeepers in the subordinate State Farms.
  - c. An Administrative Officer (Administracyjny) who was responsible for the buildings, inventories, transportation, and the supplies necessary for the operation of the cluster.

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

- d. A Personnel Officer (Personalny) who was responsible for hiring and discharging all employees in all the subordinated farms, personnel records, reports, and discipline of work.
  - e. An Agrotechnician (Agrotechnik) who supervised the cultivation of land, worked out plans for sowing and harvesting and other field work, and supervised the implementation of the plans in all the subordinated farms.
  - f. A Zootechnician (Zootechnik) who worked out livestock breeding plans for all the subordinate farms and supervised their implementation. The plans included the breeding of cattle, pigs, and poultry, and the production of milk.
  - g. A Senior Mechanic (Starszy Mechanik) who was in charge of the cluster workshop and was responsible for the repair and maintenance of tractors and agricultural machines. In this respect, he supervised the tractor brigades in the subordinated farms. He ordered the spare parts and materials for repairs for all subordinated farms from the regional wholesale supply agency of the CZR and kept records of the spare parts, repair materials, and machine tools.
8. The offices of the State Farm clusters were centrally located, mostly in the villages where one of the subordinated State Farms was located. Each State Farm cluster had an assigned number and carried an official name which indicated the character of the cluster. For example:

PGR Cluster #2 in Blonie (PGR Zespol #2, Blonie)

PGR Breeding Cluster, Plant Selection Station in Krosniewice  
(PGR Zespol Hodowlany, Stacja Selekcji Roslin Krosniewice)

PGR Gardening Cluster (PGR Zespol Ogrodniczy)

PGR Repair Workshop (PGR Warsztat Naprawczy)

#### State Farm

9. The main task of an ordinary State Farm was the production of bread grain, cattle, and dairy products. Special State Farms, those specializing in livestock breeding, grain, and garden seeds, had an auxiliary character; their task was to produce selected sowing grain, and horses and cattle of good breed for the ordinary State Farms in order to raise the quality of the stock. Some State Farms were industrialized and produced alcohol, fruit wines, jams, fruit products, and starch in their establishments. Each State Farm had a manager (Kierownik Gospodarstwa) in charge who was personally responsible for the administration and the implementation of all agricultural tasks imposed on the farm by the State Farm cluster. The following were subordinate to the manager:
- a. A Technical Bookkeeper (Ksiegowy Techniczny) who kept daily records on all work completed, products, sales, deliveries, and inventories at the farm according to the instructions received from the State Farm cluster.
  - b. A number of Field Brigades (Brygady Polowe), groups of agricultural workers under a foreman (Brygadzysta). The brigades did the actual field work; the number of brigades and the number of workers per brigade varied according to the acreage of the farm.

SECRET

SECRET

-5-

- c. A number of Breeding Brigades (Brygady Hodowlane), groups of workers employed in the stables, pig sties, and chicken farms under a foreman. Their number depended on the number of horses and cattle on the farm.
- d. A number of Tractor Brigades (Brygady Traktorowe) consisting of tractor drivers and their assistants attending to the tractors and agriculture machines under a brigadier. The number of tractors and brigades on a farm depended on the acreage. One tractor per 100 hectares was an average norm.
10. The number of agricultural workers employed at a State Farm differed depending on its character, acreage, and area. Ten workers per 100 acres was used as a norm, but this was rather a low figure for an average farm engaged in raising grain, breeding livestock, and dairy production. An average State Farm in central Poland consisting of about 300 hectares employed up to 30 agricultural workers, but most of the State Farms in the "recovered territories" did not have a sufficient number of workers. Some of them had only about five workers per 100 acres.
11. Most of the State Farms used the old prewar buildings found on the former private estates. Maintenance of farm buildings was bad and had a bad effect on the storage of crops and the conservation of agricultural machinery. New farm buildings were constructed mainly in the "recovered territories." The administrative employees of the State Farms usually lived at the farms with their families; the agricultural workers lived in special workers' houses near the farms or in adjoining villages.
12. At the main gate of each State Farm there was usually a large sign with the official name of the farm written in white letters on a red background. For example:

Panstwowe Gospodarstwo Rolne, Babask, or

Panstwowe Gospodarstwo Rolne  
Stacja Inseminacyjna, Kruszw

#### General Characteristics of the State Farms' Economy

13. The productiveness and efficiency of all State Farms were regarded as very poor in the opinion of the general public. In spite of the great effort and financial expenditures made by the government, the State Farms did not fulfill their task of being an example of high class husbandry. The results in grain production, although a little higher than the average in the country, could not be considered as satisfactory because of the great cost. The results of livestock breeding were poor and an example of ineptitude and negligence.
14. In 1954, the entire machine park of the PGRs consisted of about 23,000 tractors, mainly Zetor's, Ursus, ATZ, STZ, S-80, the new DT-53, and a few hundred of the Soviet KD-35. The above-mentioned figure also embraced about 8,000 tractors of American production, of which there were probably no more than 2,000 in working condition in 1954. In general, the PGRs had more tractors than they

SECRET

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-6-

needed on the State Farms but lacked a sufficient number of tractor-drawn agricultural machines. Only PGRs had heavy agricultural machines, such as combine harvesters, heavy threshing machines, steam traction engines, etc. Most of the Ursus tractors were on iron wheels.

15. Because of a shortage of experienced mechanics, the maintenance and repair of tractors and agricultural machines was poor at the PGRs, not only in the workshops of the State Farms but also in the central and regional repair establishments.
16. As far as finance was concerned, the PGRs were fully a deficit establishment mainly because the prices paid to them for agricultural products by the state sales establishments were very low. There were efforts made to improve the economy of the PGRs by changing and improving the bookkeeping system, and the PGRs tried to organize an efficient system of administration and supervision over the planning and control, but none of this helped. They could not determine the objective reasons for, or causes of, the very low results in grain production and the breeding of livestock.
17. The cadres were the main weak spot of the PGRs. There was a shortage of trained experienced specialists in all fields. In addition, the level of honesty among the employees was very low, and the PGRs were regarded as the most corrupt of all the state establishments in Poland. The constant lawsuits and trials involving executive and other employees of the PGRs diminished the number of available professional agronomists and frightened away the timid but honest people from looking for jobs with the PGRs. This did not improve the working atmosphere.
18. There was a lack of incentive among all the employees of the PGRs. It was known that in the past years many employees of the former Ministry of Public Security were transferred to the PGRs and assigned to executive administrative positions without any training and with no other qualifications than political reliability. They replaced the experienced agronomists, many of them former, prewar owners or administrators of large agricultural estates who were accused of sabotage, arrested and put on trial or, at best, transferred to lower, insignificant jobs. [redacted] the opinion that, among other motives, the appointment of Radkiewicz as Minister of State Farms was aimed at the elimination of irregularities at the PGRs and a general strengthening of the administration.

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#### Miscellaneous

19. There were also several hundred state agricultural farms in Poland administered by other than the PGR structure. They were officially called Other Public-Worked Lands (Inni Publicznego Wladania Ziemia). [redacted] the following categories of this type of state agricultural farm:
  - a. Almost all large industrial enterprises administered small agricultural farms on their own account through the offices of their so-called Workers' Supply Sections (Oddzial Zaspokojenia Robotniczego-OZR) which were in charge of factory canteens and grocery shops. The industrial enterprises acquired the farms in 1952-1953 by government order which directed that the PGRs give up a few hundred, mostly small

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SECRET

-7-

and difficult to administer, agricultural farms all over Poland, including all the machinery, equipment, cattle, and horses. The production of these farms was used for the catering establishments of the factories.

- b. A number of state agricultural farms were administered and their agricultural products used by the former Ministry of Public Security (Department of Prisons), the Ministry of National Defense, and the Ministry of Forestry.
  - c. Some high government and Party offices and establishments, such as the Presidium of the Council of Ministers, the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, and the Publications Association (Pax), also administered small state agricultural farms on their own and used them as vacation facilities for their employees.
20. All the independent state agricultural farms were supplied with tractors, agricultural machines, and spare parts by the Central Agricultural Equipment Supply Office (CZR) and its agencies. To satisfy their requirements, the CZR always added 10% to the total figure of the yearly planned supply of spare parts.

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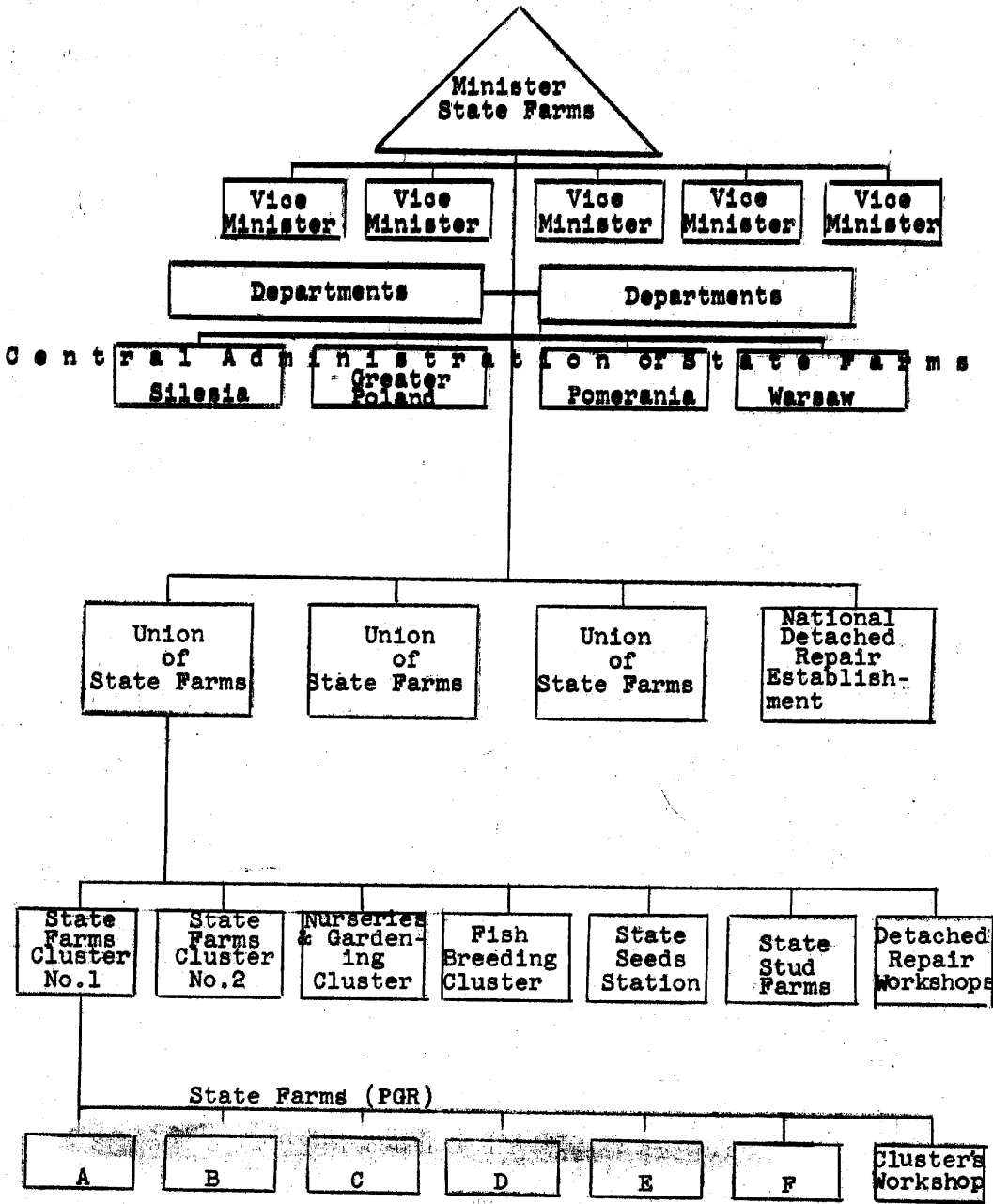
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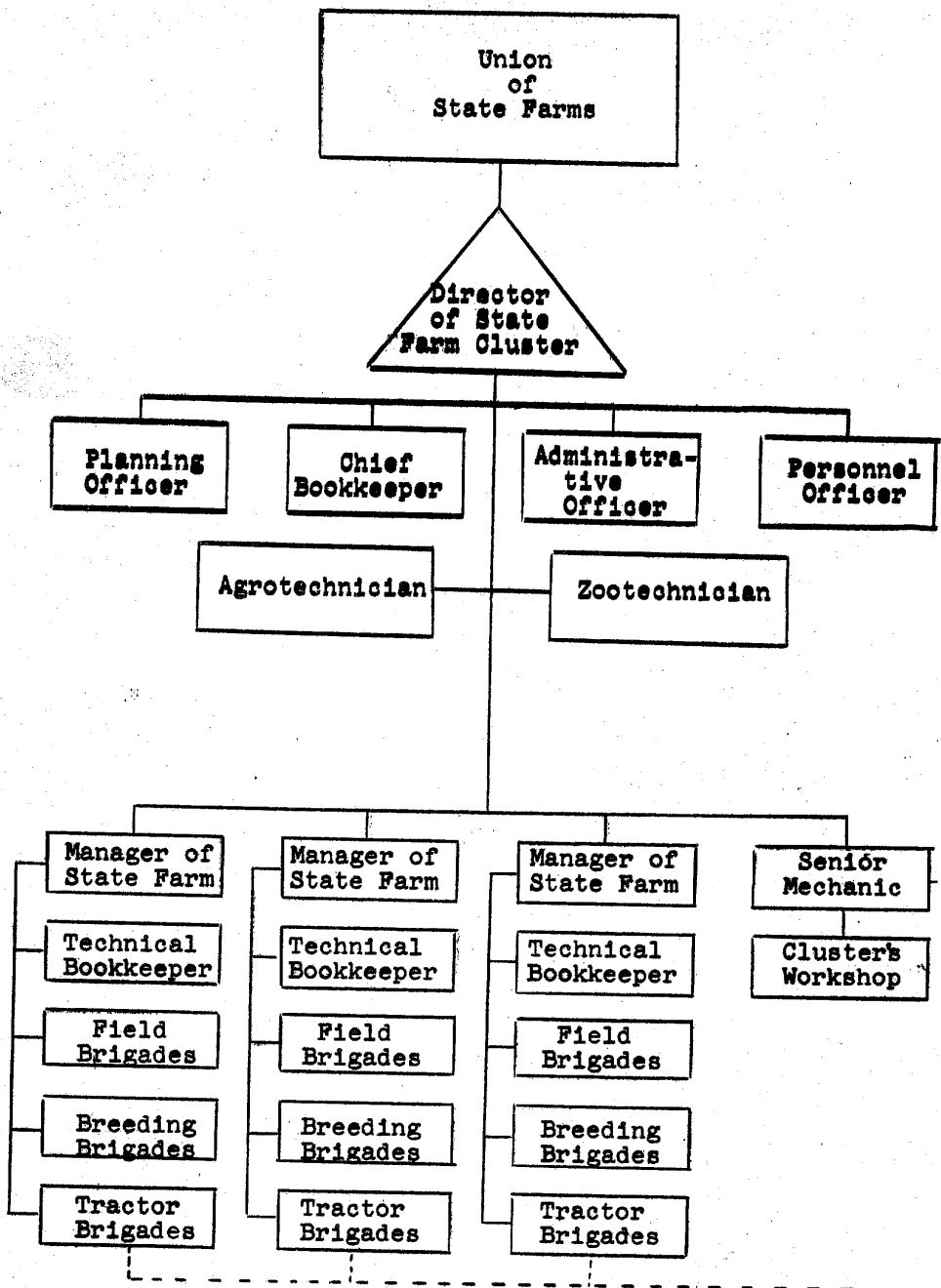
Organizational Chart of the Ministry of State Farms and its Subordinate Units.



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Organizational Chart of a State Farm Cluster and its State Farms



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